

Zoo, Mr. Wei is the strongest voice in China's democracy movement. He has spent all but six months of the last 18 years in prison and in labor camps, mostly in solitary confinement in conditions that would have killed a less stubborn man a long time ago, and may soon kill Mr. Wei, who is 46 and very ill.

Now serving his second long sentence, he is watched around the clock by nonpolitical criminal prisoners who ensure that he does not put pen to paper.

But during his first imprisonment he was permitted to write letters on certain topics to his family, prison authorities and China's leaders. Most were never sent. But they now have been translated and published. They form a remarkable body of Chinese political writing.

The book, *The Courage to Stand Alone*, is published by Viking. It shows why the Chinese Government is so afraid of Mr. Wei. His weapon is simplicity. Unlike other Chinese activists, Mr. Wei does not worry about tailoring his argument to his audience and does not indulge in the Chinese intellectual tradition of flattering the powerful. He does not worry about being seen as pro-Western, or a traitor to China.

He writes as if what is obvious to him, that China needs democratic freedoms, should be clear to anyone.

He has also been uncompromising. In 1978, Mr. Deng was fighting for control of the leadership and encouraged reformist thinking. Mr. Wei wrote a bold poster and was arrested in March 1979, given a show trial, and sentenced to jail for 15 years for simply writing a statement.

□ 1330

He was released 6 months before completing that sentence as part of China's bid to win the Olympics in the year 2000. He refused to leave before getting back letters the prison authorities had stolen. But once free, he immediately resumed his work for democracy. He was rearrested, and after a 20-month incommunicado imprisonment, he was sentenced to another 14 years.

Today the New York Times writes that there is no visible dissent in China, that activists went into exile, many were arrested, and others just simply gave up politics and turned their talents to commerce. But the moral force of his writing recalls the prison letters from other famous dissidents such as Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letters from the Birmingham Jail, Michnik's Letters From Prison, and Havel's Letters to Olga. He is not a man of many words, and he was probably not writing with an eye to publication. But the most important thing that these other political dissidents had that Mr. Wei does not have is widespread international support.

All over the world dissidents look out for others to see that governments that are oppressing them are getting pressure from outside forces. Unfortunately, such is not the case, for Mr. Wei and his political dissidents do not have the world support. Their names are not widely known, and while some Americans and other officials have brought them up during talks with Chinese leaders, in general the outside

world treats Beijing officials with deference due business partners.

Today Mr. Wei suffers from life-threatening heart disease. Because of a neck problem he cannot even lift his head. All indications are that he has not seen a doctor in more than a year. He is due to be released in the year 2009, if he lives that long.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that we in the West must stop allowing our insatiable desire for greater commerce and larger market shares to compromise any further our commitment to freedom of speech, freedom from religious persecution, and freedom from the dehumanizing repression that has brutalized Chinese dissidents for years now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We offer this prayer of Thanksgiving and praise to You, O God, for the gift of our lives and for the opportunities all about us. Our words of prayer are directed to You, gracious God, in response to Your mighty acts of love to us. The promises and the grace that You have given are more awesome than anything we could deserve or imagine. So strengthened by Your word and encouraged by Your spirit, we can meet each day with confidence and new resolve. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT PAY FOR CLEANUP OF NUCLEAR WASTE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, who should be responsible for paying the \$2.3 billion price tag for transporting nuclear waste? Should it be the nuclear power industry, who created and profited from it, or the American taxpayer?

Legislation now pending before the House will force taxpayers to pick up the tab for moving this lethal garbage through their own communities and maybe even through their neighborhoods. On top of that, this legislation would also use American tax dollars to pay for the storage of nuclear waste.

I think most Americans would agree that the cost of transporting and storing these hazardous materials should not have to be paid by innocent American taxpayers, but rather by those responsible, the nuclear power industry.

Let us save America's hard earned tax dollars and return the responsibility of waste to the big power companies.

SUPPORT THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 1997

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY], and myself in supporting H.R. 1173, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1997. So far 70 Members of the House, both Republicans and Democrats, have added their names as cosponsors of this bill.

H.R. 1173 recognizes the fundamental right of police and firefighters to form and join unions and to bargain collectively with their employers over wages, hours, and working conditions.

H.R. 1173 does not create a Federal mandate. It does not affect existing State collective bargaining laws and it would prohibit strikes and lockouts.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Firefighters, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Union of Police Associations and the National Association of Police Organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in support of H.R. 1173.

IN APPRECIATION OF TEACHERS

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support and in tribute to